

Na Mana'o O Ka Po'e

NOTICE:
PAR WILL BE OPEN LATE
FRIDAY, MARCH 3
FOR FIRST DECKING

"The People's Views"



TOLL-FREE BY ISLAND
HAWAII`I 974-4000
MAUI 984-2400
KAUAI`I 274-3141
MOLOKA`I & LANA`I
1-800-468-4644
Then dial extension
7-0478 for staff
or 7-0793 for FAX.

From the Hawai'i State Legislature's Public Access Room

Room 401, State Capitol

e-mail us at par@capitol.hawaii.gov

(808) 587-0478



Capitol Commentary producer Bonnie Murakami adjusts a microphone for guest Jim Brewer before a taping session.

EVERYONE'S FAMOUS FOR 7 MINUTES... ON CAPITOL COMMENTARY

At about 5:30 p.m. every Wednesday, the Public Access Room changes from a busy office to a TV studio. But our purpose remains the same – to inform the public about Hawai'i's legislative processes.

A background cloth is draped over our bookshelves. Tables where people were studying bills or drafting public testimony earlier in the day make way for video cameras and TV lights.

When "Capitol Commentary" starts taping, you might find a Hawai'i state senator in front of the cameras, explaining his support of a particular bill.

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THE LEGISLATURE CELEBRATES TEN YEARS OF PUBLIC ACCESS !!!

By Public Access
Coordinator Kimo Brown

An exciting milestone will be observed during the 2000 Legislative Session: the 10th Anniversary of the Legislature's Public Access Room. We will also be reflecting on the tremendous strides our Legislature has made in opening up the political process to Hawai'i's citizens.

We have long been recognized as one of the nation's leaders in the open government movement. The fruits of the labor of many people are all around us: the PAR; the Legislative Broadcast Project; websites for the Legislature, Legislative Reference Bureau and PAR (preceded by the ACCESS Computer System); the Office of Information Practices; the State Ethics Commission; the Auditor's Office; the Campaign Finance Commission; the Ombudsman's Office; TV shows "*Call the Capitol*" and "*Capitol Commentary*"; the Citizens Guide; AudioAccess; and the Sunshine Law. There have also been many reforms in the legislative process itself that have made it easier to navigate and understand.

Electra Anderson, one of the PAR's founders who has returned from Arizona for the festivities, says, "It is truly stunning when

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"CALL THE CAPITOL" GIVES PUBLIC A CHANCE TO ASK QUESTIONS

Asking your state House member a question and getting an answer just got easier with a new, live call-in show about the Hawai'i Legislature on Friday afternoons.



"Call the Capitol" is the latest offering from the Legislative Broadcast Project. Participating legislators will vary from week to week. It will be telecast live on Fridays, from 4-5 p.m. on 'Olelo's Channel 54.

Discussions are underway to broadcast live to the Neighbor Islands and possibly to simulcast on a commercial radio station, said executive producer Mark Segami.

Viewers can submit questions to the show between 4 and 5 p.m. three ways: by calling **(808) 586-8173**; or faxing **1-800-535-3859**; or e-mailing **houseofrep@capitol.hawaii.gov**. For more information, call Mark at **586-6132**.

CAPITOL COMMENTARY

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Or a concerned citizen offering her opinion of why another bill should die a sudden death.

Legislative Session 2000 marks the second year that "Capitol Commentary" has offered a venue for opinions about state lawmaking as it happens. Lawmakers and members of the public are equally welcome.

The show offers participants seven minutes to speak on any matter relevant to the current session. As many as eight people can be recorded during each taping session. The comments are then aired at 7:30 p.m. Sundays on 'Olelo, Oceanic Channel 54. The Public Access Room, Room 401 in the Capitol building, provides space for the program, as part of our mission to open the legislative process to all.

John Friedman, president of the Hawai'i Parent Teacher Student Association, has appeared on Capitol Commentary several times. "It's an excellent venue for non-profit organizations like ours to get public exposure," he said.

How do I get on Capitol Commentary?

To reserve a taping time in advance, call 'Olelo at 834-0007, ext. 128. Or, you may just walk in and see if taping time is available on Wednesdays from 6-8 p.m.

Remaining taping times in 2000 are:

March 1, 15, 22 and 29; and April 5, 19, 26.

PAR WORKSHOPS CONTINUE

Attendance at our citizen participation workshops was great in January and February. Here is the schedule for March and April. Remember that additional classes may be scheduled for groups, staff time permitting. Call us at 587-0478 or e-mail us at par@capitol.hawaii.gov to sign up.

The Legislative Process & Citizen Participation

On these Wednesdays, from noon to 1:30 p.m.:
March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 and April 5 and 12.

Reading Legislative Documents

On these Tuesdays, from noon to 1:30 p.m.:
March 7 and 21, and April 4 and 18.

State Budget Process

On these Tuesdays, from noon to 1:30 p.m.:
March 14 and 28, and April 11 and 28.

MAHALO MAIL



Maybe it's human nature that we often complain about rather than compliment our fellow humans. The Public Access Room's *Mahalo Mail* is a way for people to thank Representatives, Senators, their staffs, or anyone else who has assisted them in the legislative process. Just pick up a *Mahalo Mail* form in the PAR and we'll deliver your note of thanks to the appropriate person.



Kimo Brown, Public Access Coordinator: Before taking this position, Kimo worked for former Speaker Joseph Souki, Speaker Calvin Say, Sen. Les Ihara, Jr. and his aunt, Rep. Kina'u Kamali'i. A Punahou graduate, Kimo was a well-known child falsetto singer.



Bob Jones, Researcher: Bob has been the first person you see in the Public Access Room for six years. A buyer for 30 years at Lockheed, Bob now enjoys fishing and helping folks find information they need with wit, charm and the occasional wry remark.



Kapono Ciotti, Researcher: Kapono is a graduate of the Evergreen State College and an Internet wizard. He created the famous PAR Legislative Clock. In his spare time, Kapono is an African drummer, Native Hawaiian plant herbalist and world traveler.



Suzanne Marinelli, Public Access Room Manager: Suzanne has overseen daily operations of the Public Access Room since the 1998 session. She is a hillbilly-Italian Virginian from Hanalei, a woven sculpture artist, experienced hiker, and proud grandmother.



Diana Leone, Researcher: In her former life as a newspaper reporter, Diana once covered Tennessee's legislature. She informs us that they do not have nearly as interesting an Opening Day in that state. Diana is a singer, writer and novice canoe paddler.



Marti Tom, Researcher: A UH broadcast journalism major and quick wit, Marti is the PAR's liaison to the Legislature's Broadcast Project. She helped found Channel 2's Action Line and enjoys speaking French and eating pommes frites in Paris.



Lana Yoshimura, Researcher: (At left)

Lana works in the PAR part-time in addition to her full-time gig with Honolulu City Council Member Duke Bainum. She's the PAR's database whiz, a UH political science and American Studies graduate, and a proud native of Hilo.

PAR VOLUNTEERS

Not pictured, but a key part of the PAR's operations is our volunteer, **Honu Huihui**, who has faithfully served the PAR's patrons for many years. She is joined this year by newcomer **Antoni Garibaldi**.

By popular request,
PAR guru Bob Jones
returns for....

ASK BOB



Q: Whatever happened to ACCESS?

A: ACCESS is the outdated computer system the public used to track legislation before the Hawai'i Legislature developed its website. Some of you who used ACCESS in the past have recently expressed your fondness for it. Well I'm sorry, but ACCESS IS DEAD.

Although fragments of ACCESS remain in a computer hinterland, they are not reliable. Our advice is don't even *try* to use it. Join the new cyber world and use the Legislature's website at www.capitol.hawaii.gov. The website is better, faster and more user-friendly than ACCESS ever was. If you need help getting acquainted with the website, as always, the Public Access Room staff is here to serve you.

Q: Where do I go to get my name changed?

A: The Lieutenant Governor's Office handles name changes in Hawai'i. You can read about the procedure on the Lt. Governor's website and download forms at www.hawaii.gov/lrgov.

You may also pick up paperwork at the Lt. Governor's office on the fifth floor of the Capitol. Or ask their office to mail you the necessary information by sending them a self-addressed envelope with 77-cents of postage attached. Write: Lt. Governor's Office, Attn: Name Change, 415 S. Beretania, Honolulu, HI, 96813. For more information, call (808) 586-0255.

A DECADE OF ACCESS (cont. from pg. 1)

you compare 1990 to 2000. I helped plant a seed, but it has grown into a tree of amazing complexity and fullness. Hawai'i's people should be very proud of their Legislature." Planned events include a dinner on Feb. 25, and Senate and House floor presentations honoring the PAR's founders on March 1. Call the PAR for info.



PAR HANDOUTS NOW AVAILABLE IN LARGE-PRINT

For those who need larger-than-normal type size to read comfortably, the Public Access Room now offers large-print versions of all our popular handouts: House and Senate district maps, phone and e-mail lists, committee assignments and more. Just ask PAR staff for the large-print documents.



GET THE PAR

Yes! You can see this entire newsletter at the Public Access Room's website at www.state.hi.us/lrb/par.

Attention: If you did not receive notice of this newsletter by e-mail, we don't have your current e-mail address! Please e-mail us at par@capitol.hawaii.gov to receive the next newsletter online – and pass the word along to others.



A typical PAR day: Internet users in the foreground, and live hearing broadcasts in the background.